

# STELLA WRIGHT HOMES HOPE VI

*"BUILDING COMMUNITY & CHANGING LIVES"*

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### Your Participation Is

### Your Key to Success . .

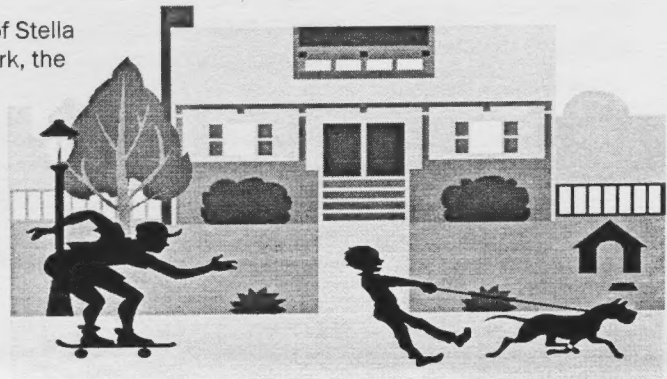
The HOPE VI staff needs your ideas, energy and support as we work together to rebuild Newark's Central Ward. As 15-year-old Amir Rafiq Tonsul says on page 4 in the article on his summer participation, "everyone needs to participate in Hope VI."

As you read this first issue of the newsletter, call Doris McCray-Crank immediately at 973-430-2249. If you are one of the first 20 persons to read the newsletter and to call Doris, you will receive a special Thanksgiving gift.

The Staff

## NHA TAKES BOLD STEPS WITH RESIDENTS TO REBUILD STELLA WRIGHT HOMES

Working with former residents of Stella Wright Homes, the City of Newark, the churches, schools and community leaders and organizations, the Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA), has developed a conceptual design plan for the Stella Wright Homes HOPE VI revitalization that is gaining praises from residents and other stakeholders.



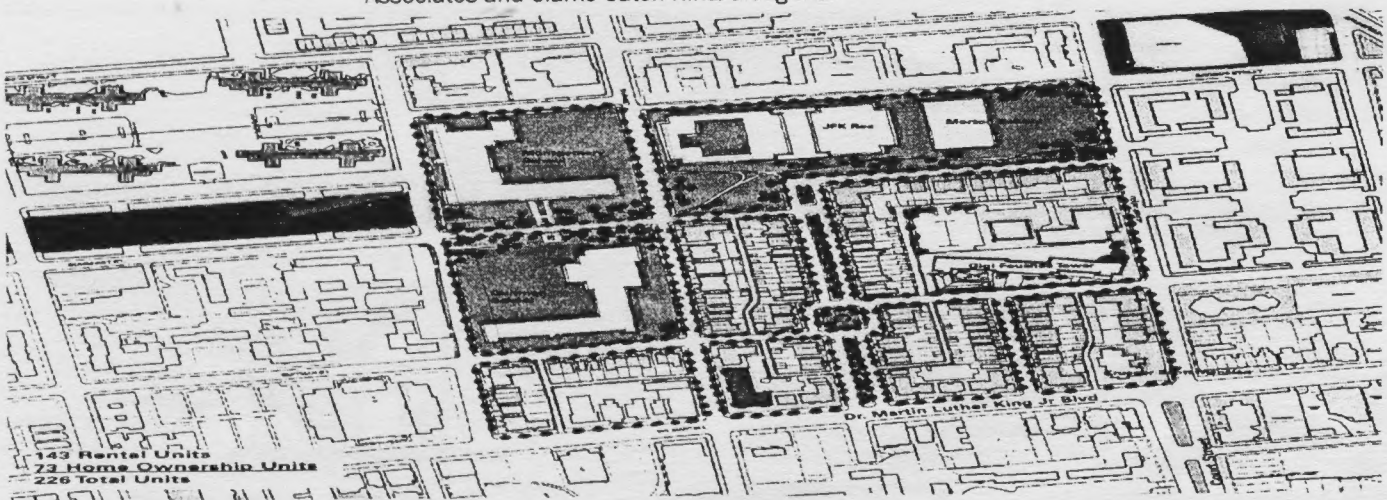
Residents and the community have eagerly participated in a three-phase process. First they were asked to identify the things they liked, disliked and things they envisioned for the Stella Wright Homes site, the Central Ward and Newark.

Stella Wright Homes residents participated on the Steering Committee and in focus group sessions in the design planning process during August, September and October.

Zimmerman Volk Associates and Brown Stevenson, reviewed information they had gathered and presented concept ideas to residents, and other stakeholders to gain

(Continued on page 2)

Second, the design team, Urban Design Associates and Clarke Caton Hintz along with



The concept design above shows the Hill Manor site redeveloped with townhouses and apartments, green spaces and streets designed to control traffic.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### WE'RE MAKING PROGRESS

- 229 former Stella Wright Homes residents selected Section 8 housing vouchers.
- Former Stella Wright Homes residents have been named to all HOPE VI committees.
- More than 50 former Stella Wright Homes residents participated in the design planning process.
- HOPE VI staff members have implemented regular site meetings available to all former Stella Wright Homes residents.
- 20 former Stella Wright Homes residents are being identified to receive scholarships to be trained in the high-paying construction industry through the Women & Minority Construction Training program.
- Four former Stella Wright Homes youth received scholarships to attend a Non-Violence workshop sponsored by PSE&G and presented by Queen of Angels.
- Former Stella Wright Homes residents participated in the first ever Social Security workshop.
- Two former Stella Wright Homes residents graduated from asbestos training program.

In October I celebrated my one-year anniversary as Assistant Executive Director for economic and community development for NHA with major responsibility for management of the Stella Wright Homes HOPE VI redevelopment project. Someone asked me how the year had been and I was delighted to reply that it's been a challenging, energizing and productive year.

While I have not met every former Stella Wright Homes resident, those of you that I have met have conveyed to

me your deep sense of pride in your former home and an abiding desire to see it as a safe, clean, affordable and pleasant location that you can call home again. Some of you have been working with my staff and me and our various consultants on planning processes and designs. If you've not been actively involved, I personally invite you to give me a call so that we can discuss your role as a volunteer on one of our committees.

My staff and I recognize that we are only the keepers of

the plans and designs for the redevelopment of HOPE VI. You are the visionaries; you are our most important reason for being. We're listening and working to put your ideas into action in this process. We're rebuilding the housing in the Central Ward, but we are also changing lives. Please read the back page story that urges you to take full advantage of the supportive services that you will soon be offered.

**Karen Torian**

*Watch the mail for notice of meeting at your site.*

Resident Liaison Doris McCray-Crank has been "on the road" so to speak since early October meeting with former Stella Wright Homes (SWH) residents at the sites they moved to following Stella Wright. "Currently we have residents at all 34 public housing sites," says Doris. "The site meetings are an

### SITE MEETINGS COMING TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU

opportunity for former SWH residents to get the latest update on the HOPE VI project, to volunteer to participate on a committee or project and to share any concerns and/or questions they may have," she added.

Transportation may be provided where requested. And

if you miss the scheduled meeting at your site, please call Doris for the next schedule (973-430-2249).

#### SITE MEETING

November 27.  
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
500 Broad Street  
For Section 8 residents  
Open to all

## NHA TAKES BOLD STEPS WITH RESIDENTS TO REBUILD STELLA WRIGHT HOMES

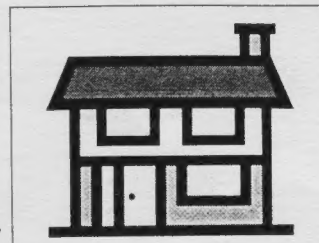
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additional input and ideas about the street designs, housing units, retail spaces and support services.

Finally, the design team held a public meeting in late September to present the conceptual designs to the residents and others who participated in the process.

"I like it," said a resident who sat through the presentation. "It has all of the things we need and want for our community," she added.

The plan includes parks, community spaces, townhouses

and apartment buildings as well as retail space, day care and public safety facilities.



The design concept plans include a variety of housing styles.

The NHA will now select a developer to work with residents, area stakeholders and HOPE VI staff on the master plan.

## NHA NEEDS GIRLS FOR Ms. HOUSING AUTHORITY PAGEANT

If your daughter is between the ages of 13 and 16, this is a tremendous opportunity for her to gain more confidence, learn poise, gain experiences from traveling throughout the state, and win the Ms. Housing Authority Pageant.

The girls who participate in this process have a more positive outlook on life, more self-esteem and more direction about their role and responsibility in their

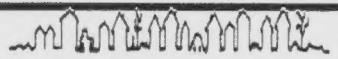
future career choices and expectations.

The girls must participate in Personal Growth Workshops, Career Exploration and Development activities, Community Service, and the Pageant Show Preparation activities. About 50 girls from public housing neighborhoods in New Jersey participate. Applications are now being taken for the 2002 Pageant Year. For more information,



Girls are invited to join the Miss Housing Authority pageant club now.

call Mrs. Emma Lucas at 973-273-6011. This is a great chance for personal development for teenaged girls.



### "Building Community & Changing Lives" HOPE VI PROGRAM GOALS

Improve public housing by demolishing severely distressed public housing projects, such as high-rises and barracks-style apartments, and replacing them with townhouses or garden-style apartments that blend aesthetically into the surrounding community.

Reducing concentrations of poverty by encouraging a greater income mix among public housing residents and by encouraging working families to move into new affordable or market-rate housing being built as part of the neighborhoods where public housing once stood.

Provide support services such as education and training programs, childcare services, transportation and counseling to help public housing residents get and keep jobs.

Establish and enforce high standards of personal and community responsibility through explicit lease requirements.

Forge partnerships that involve public housing residents, state and local government officials, the private sector, non-profit groups and the community-at-large in planning and implementing new communities.

## CONGRATS! YOU'RE A WINNER!

Special Holiday Gift for You & Your Family

# Winner

**THANKS FOR BEING AMONG THE FIRST 20  
TO READ YOUR NEWSLETTER AND TO CALL**

Call Doris McCray-Crank to receive your gift:  
Tel: 973-430-2249

To show you our appreciation for your being among the first 20 people to read this newsletter prepared especially for you and to call Doris, you will receive a holiday gift basket. Call Doris McCray-Crank before Monday, November 19, 2001, to arrange pickup (973-430-2249).

## STELLA WRIGHT YOUTH ATTEND NON-VIOLENCE CONFERENCE



Four former Stella Wright Homes youth participated in the First Annual Non-violence Youth Conference

on October 20, 2001. Terence Mells, Ali Mells, Marhita Campbell and Shadiqah Nelson attended the full-day conference. Each youth selected three workshops dealing with such subjects as children and domestic violence, sexual violence, avoiding gangs, school violence, and anger management and self-control.

The event was given by The Queen of Angels' Pillars of Peace Youth Ministry and was held at the Robert Treat Hotel in downtown Newark.

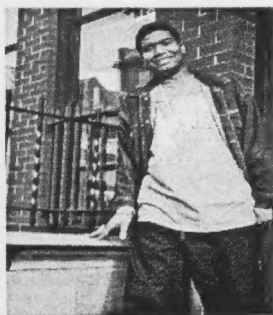
The youth received scholarships to cover the expenses thanks to PSE&G, the sponsor of the program. Gail Davis, urban development manager at PSE&G and a member of the Stella Wright Homes HOPE VI Steering committee, was instrumental in securing the scholarships for the youth.

Many thanks to Gail.



## STELLA WRIGHT YOUTH PARTICIPATES IN DESIGN PROCESS

**Editor's Note:** 15-year-old Amir Rafiq Tonsul got an opportunity to participate in the design process for the revitalization of Stella Wright Homes. Below, Amir discusses his experiences in his own words.



Amir says he loved the opportunity to work with the Stella Wright Homes design team.

### It's Only The Beginning

My name is Amir Rafiq Tonsul. I'm 15 and a junior in high school. I also reside in the great city of Newark, NJ, also known as Brick City. I am a former resident of Stella Wright Homes in Newark's Central Ward. My family's history goes back forty years in those high rises. Those homes were once a great place to live, but as times changed so did the homes. Since I

never experienced it as being a great place to live while I was living there, I thought it would be great for future generations to have that comfortable experience. So when the opportunity came where I could make a difference in my former community, I kicked down the door at the chance.

As a member of the youth advisory board of the Housing Authority of the City of Newark's HOPE VI project, I got an opportunity to work with the design team last summer. I worked for the architectural firm of Clarke Caton Hintz based in Trenton, NJ. This architectural firm has done great work in areas similar to Stella Wright Homes all over the state. They were also the designers and architects of Shabazz High School and the adjoining field areas.

My job description was to visit my former neighborhood and survey it. I would write down addresses, building uses, street landscaping, and the lot and block numbers of

each area. I also called people and set up meetings to discuss Stella Wright Homes "in the good old days". This including interviewing members of the city council and executives at HOPE VI to discuss the plans for the area. Some days I also was able to take the train to Trenton and work right in the offices with the architects and staff.

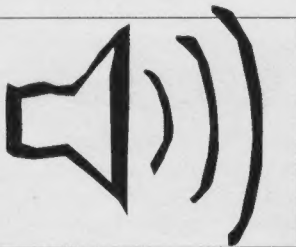
I had a great time working for Clarke Caton Hintz. I learned about the design process called charrettes, where people get to say what they think is good, bad or could be better in the community. Thus I got to give my own personal outlook on how I wanted things to look in the new community.

I am so grateful for that opportunity. Many people my age don't get opportunities like this. I'm one of the lucky ones. My advice is instead of waiting for opportunity to knock, kick down the door.

*"When opportunity knocks, don't be shy about answering it. Everyone, young and old, needs to take advantage of the HOPE VI programs and services."*

*Amir Rafiq Tonsul, age 15*

## GOOD NEWS TRAVELS FAST



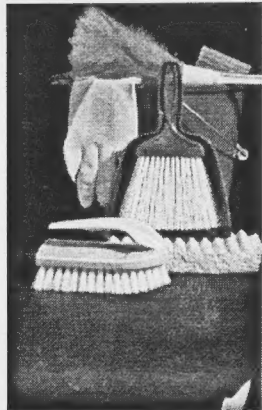
**Congratulations** to former Stella Wright Homes residents Tara Johnson and Marvin Rogers who were among the few enrollees to successfully complete the Asbestos

Training program sponsored by AFL-CIO Local 1030.

**Former Stella Wright Homes residents** are in the process of competing for scholarships to receive training in the high paying Construction industry. Newark is in the midst of a building boom that is expected to lead to many jobs. Interested? Watch the newsletter for future job training opportunities.

**Site Meetings** are being held at each housing authority site and other locations especially for former Stella Wright Homes residents. Watch your mail for the announcement at your site. If you miss your site meeting, feel free to join Doris McCray-Crank at any site (973-430-224). Transportation may be provided where needed. See page 2 for listings of site visits for November.

## HELPFUL HINTS FROM SHEILA



Often just as you get ready to clean you realize you've run out of your favorite cleaning products. Don't give up—there are lots of things you already have around the house that can be used to create your own cleaning products. Baking soda can be used in many

ways as a cleaning product. Here are a few:

### Drain Cleaner

- \* 1/2 cup baking soda
- \* 1 cup vinegar
- \* Boiling water

Place baking soda in drain; add vinegar. It will fizz and bubble, so be careful. After the fizz slows down and the solution begins to go down the drain, pour in the boiling water. Continue to flush with hot tap water until the clog breaks.

### Toilet Bowl Cleaner

- \* Baking Soda
- \* Vinegar

Sprinkle some baking soda into the toilet bowl. Put in a little

vinegar. Scour with a toilet brush. It cleans and deodorizes.

### Deodorizer

- \* 4 teaspoons baking soda
- \* 4 cups water

Mix and fill in a spray bottle and then spray the solution in a fine mist.

Or

- \* Wrap cloves and cinnamon in cheesecloth and boil them in water.
- \* Leave herbal bouquet standing in open dishes for a fragrant smell.

Sheila Scudder

Thank You



Hope VI staff members Sheila Scudder and Doris McCray-Crank received special thanks from a former Stella Wright Homes resident who wrote:

*"Just a note to both of you to thank you for all you have done to assist me in my move from Stella Wright Homes. Now I can prosper more fully in all of my endeavors. I'm doing quite well now. I'm happy and most grateful to people like you. I don't forget. I remember."*

Keep up the good work  
Doris & Sheila.



## Holiday Recipe: Cream Cheese Pound Cake

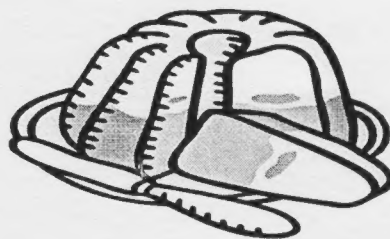


NOTE: Do not preheat oven!

- ⇒ 3 sticks sweet butter or margarine
- ⇒ 8 oz. Cream cheese
- ⇒ 3 cups sugar
- ⇒ 1 1/2 teaspoon lemon or vanilla flavor
- ⇒ 3 cups flour
- ⇒ 6 large eggs

Soften butter and cream cheese. Cream together. Add sugar and beat. Add flavor. On low, add flour and eggs, alternating between the two. Beat well.

Pour into a 10" x 3" greased and floured tube pan. Place in a cold oven and turn to 300 degrees. Bake 1 1/2—1 3/4 hours. Test for doneness. Remove cake from oven and cool for 30 minutes before removing from pan.



### OPTIONAL Cream Cheese Frosting

- ⇒ 8 oz. Cream cheese
- ⇒ 1/4 lb of butter
- ⇒ 1 pound box of confectioner's sugar
- ⇒ 2 tablespoons vanilla flavor

Soften cream cheese & butter. Cream together. Blend with confectioner's sugar. Beat until smooth. Add 2 tablespoons vanilla and beat. Smooth over cake.

### Stella Wright Homes HOPE VI Newsletter

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If you have questions, good news to share or information you'd like to receive, call or email Nellie.



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The Stella Wright Homes HOPE VI project is designed to revitalize a 42-acre area of the Central Ward with new buildings, improved and new parks, community centers, child care and other supportive services. Equally important is the commitment the Housing Authority of the City of Newark (NHA) has made to improving the quality of life for each of the 764 former families of Stella Wright Homes.

COMING SOON:  
M TO MAKE YOU A WINNER



**Working with the LST and North Ward agencies, you'll be able to set goals that will lead to self-sufficiency for you and your family.**

- Assess your needs, both social service and housing needs;
- Develop with you a plan that will address those needs, including job training and job placement, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, financial management, or disability related issues;
- Assist you in connecting with the right resources to make your plan come true.

Within a few weeks you will be receiving a call from John Marvos of LST Group, Inc. to discuss your permanent housing choices and to assess your needs. This meeting will be followed by contacts with James Sounder, Cindy Rojas or Tracie Johnson of the North Ward Group. These meetings between you and LST or North Ward may take place in your home or in their offices depending on your preference. We encourage you to respond positively to the outreach from LST and North Ward. All information provided to LST and North Ward remains confidential. It is true that the squeaky wheel gets the oil. If we don't hear from you, we can't plan to meet your needs.

If you have questions about the supportive services, please call Sheila Scudder at 973-430-2342.